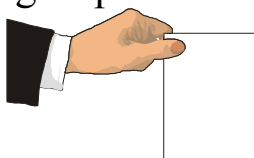


Spring 2002

Routing Slip

____ Managers
 ____ Supervisors
 ____ Mechanics
 ____ Drivers



Please share the **Passenger TransActions** with other members of your staff. Don't let it get buried on your desk.

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FY2002 Federal Program Update

Michigan's fiscal year 2002 federal program is off to a good start. Transit agencies should have received contracts for operating assistance from the Federal Section 5311 Nonurban Formula Program. The reimbursement rate was held at 10.95 percent of eligible expenses which used \$6,289,430 of the \$8.5 million appropriation. Another \$1,283,901 was set aside for intercity bus activities; \$865,280 is allocated to buses leased in FY1997; and the remaining dollars will fund nonurban replacement buses and Public Transportation Management System (PTMS) computer replacements.

Thirty-five agencies will receive capital items funded with \$1,775,370 Federal Highway flex funds. These items include nine buses, computers, maintenance and communication equipment, facility improvements and one new facility.

This year's Federal Section 5310 Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Program apportionment is \$3.0 million and will be used to purchase buses. Several Section 5310 providers were also successful in getting \$270,200 in flexible funds for projects such as buses, facility improvements, radios and maintenance equipment.

Many transit providers throughout the state received an earmark from the Federal Section 5309 Capital Discretionary Program. The earmarks total \$24.7 million. MDOT will be submitting an application for the nonurban earmarks in June. An additional \$1.9 million is earmarked for the state of Michigan. Those funds will be used for new facilities and facility improvements for 8 agencies, 17 replacement buses for 10 agencies, and payment for 2 buses leased to an urban agency in FY1997. This application will also be submitted in June.

Vehicle News

NHTSA Repeats Rollover Warning to Users of 15-Passenger Vans

The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reissued a cautionary warning to users of 15-passenger vans because of an increased rollover risk under certain conditions. A similar warning was issued in 2001.

NHTSA research has shown that 15-passenger vans have a rollover risk that increases dramatically as the number of occupants increases from fewer than five to more than ten. In fact, 15-passenger vans (with 10 or more occupants) had a rollover rate in single vehicle crashes that is nearly three times the rate of those that were lightly loaded.

A copy of the NHTSA analysis of the rollover characteristics of 15-passenger vans can be found at: www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/ncsa/reports.html#Anchor-NCS-41871. A new consumer advisory is also available at www.nhtsa.dot.gov.

EIDorado National Issues Two Technical Bulletins

EIDorado National issued two technical bulletins for certain buses purchased via State of Michigan contracts. These bulletins are as follows:

1. Additional sealant protection applied to the perimeter of the bus body windows to reduce water leaks. This bulletin was issued on March 29, 2002, for all Aerotech and Aero Elite Models.
2. Corrosion of brake rotor. Interchangeable coated rotors are being provided for replacement by the manufacturer. The bulletin was issued on March 29, 2002, and applies to all models with hydraulic ABS brakes on the International chassis.

Any questions regarding these bulletins should be directed to Vic Hill at Hoekstra Transportation, Inc. at 800/444-4104 or your MDOT vehicle service coordinator.

Training

MI-ACT Offers Social Marketing Training

The Michigan Chapter of the Association for Commuter Transportation (MI-ACT) is offering a two-day conference on social marketing on June 5-7, 2002, at the Haworth Conference Center in Holland, Michigan. The registration deadline is May 31, 2002.

The Academy for Educational Development (AED), based in Washington, DC, will provide conference participants with a framework for approaching social marketing assignments. Training will focus on behavior change techniques as an alternative to traditional forms of print advertising.

Conference registration packets may be requested from Angie Payne at 517/335-2553 or by e-mail at: paynea@michigan.gov. Registration is limited to 80 participants. Conference rates are \$200 for MI-ACT members and \$275 for non-members.

FTA Schedules Emergency Preparedness and Security Forum in Michigan

As part of the federal government's efforts to improve homeland security, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is offering a **FREE**, 2-day seminar entitled, "Connecting Communities: Emergency Preparedness and Security Forum." The forum is open to transit and emergency response agencies across the state.

The forum will be held on October 16-17, at the Doubletree Detroit Airport, 31500 Wick Road, Detroit. To register for the forum, visit FTA's Web site at www.transit-safety.volpe.dot.gov. For more information, call or e-mail Jennifer Whalley at 617/494-3798 or whalley@volpe.dot.gov.



Reauthorization Work Group Update

The Reauthorization Work Group has met two times to develop consensus positions on a variety of program and regulatory issues. The group has also reviewed projected capital and operating needs provided by the public transit agencies. A number of transit agencies have not submitted their projected needs through FY 2008. It is critical that all public transit agencies in the state provide this data as it will be included in a book provided to each member of Michigan's congressional delegation. The book will include the following information:

- Operating and Capital Needs - Local Bus, Intercity, and Marine (FY 2003 - FY 2008)
- Emerging Needs
 - Transit Equity
 - Counties Without Public Transportation
- Regulatory and Program Issues
- TEA-21 Summary
- Maps and Tables

Emerging needs information includes:

Transit Equity. This is an effort to seek a higher return on gas tax contributions to the Mass Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund. Michigan's return on contributions to the Mass Transit Account is only 40-50 percent in any given year.

Counties Without Public Transportation. While every county in Michigan has some form of public transportation, some 36 counties do not have a base level of county-wide public transportation. This section will identify funding needed to implement a base level of service in those counties that do not have county-wide service.

The TEA-21 Summary will be a listing by transit agency and congressional district of all projects funded under TEA-21. The work group's goal is to have the TEA-21 reauthorization book completed and sent to the congressional delegation by early June, 2002. Members of the work group are:

Dan Dirks, Suburban Mobility Authority
For Regional Transportation
Jan Bauman, Isabella County Transportation
Joe DeKoning, Bay Area Transportation
Peter Varga, Interurban Transit Partnership
Vance Edwards, Cadillac/Wexford Transit
Cameron McCollum, Jackson Transportation
Clark Harder, Michigan Public Transit

Association

Bob Niemi, Marquette County Transit
James Dunn, Eastern U.P. Transportation

Kip Grimes, Phil Kazmierski, Kim Johnson, and Bill Beachler from MDOT

Peter Lynch and Connie Morrison of the MDOT Bureau of Transportation Planning are also providing input to the work group. If you have any question or concerns please contact a member of the work group or Kip Grimes at 517/373-0470, e-mail: grimesk@michigan.gov.

FTA Announces Solicitations for JARC Grants

In the April 8, 2002, Federal Register, FTA announced the next round of solicitations for grant proposals under the Job Access/Remote Commute (JARC) program. Information regarding the Federal Register announcement or the JARC program can be obtained by contacting Rose Ann Ward (phone 517/335-2598, fax 517/373-7997, e-mail: wardr@michigan.gov).

Continuation Projects - Applications for continuation projects are due on June 7, 2002. PTD is submitting an application for the continuation of seven rural projects, including 11 counties approved as part of the FY 2000 grant solicitation process. The agencies included in the application are: ALTRAN Transit Authority, Allegan County, Eaton County Transportation Authority, Ionia Dial-A-Ride, Ludington Mass Transit Authority, Midland County Connection, and Van Buren Public Transit. Approximately \$1.6 million in federal funds is being requested for the third and fourth year of operations for these projects. Approval of this grant will enable us to stretch state dollars to help welfare recipients become more independent.

New Projects - New project proposals are due July 8, 2002. Those planning on submitting an application for a new project are required to notify FTA by June 7, 2002, of their intention. Large urban areas are required to contact FTA directly by June 7, 2002, of their intention to apply for a JARC grant. Also, please send a copy of the notice that is sent to FTA to Rose Ann Ward (see contact information above). Small urban areas and nonurban areas should notify Rose Ann Ward of intentions to submit an application by June 3, 2002. PTD will forward the requested information to FTA by the June 7, 2002, deadline.

Around the State

Kalamazoo Metro Wins Prestigious Award!

The American Public Transit Association (APTA) recently announced that Kalamazoo Metro Transit System is the winner of the Improvement Award in the 2002 APTA Bus Safety Award Competition. The award honors Kalamazoo Metro for the greatest improvements in safe service delivery out of all transit providers in the United States and Canada. Kalamazoo Metro Transit is the winner in Group III, the category for transit systems providing one to four million passenger trips annually.

The award was presented at the APTA Bus and Paratransit Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota on May 6, 2002. Congratulations to the entire staff at Kalamazoo Metro Transit System for this prestigious award and keep up the great work!

Lynn Lafler is Ionia County's Citizen of the Year

Lynn Lafler, manager of Ionia Dial-A-Ride, was the recent recipient of Ionia County's 2001 Citizen of the Year Award. Lynn's work in public transit was recognized as vital to the community, along with his participation in other community service efforts.

This award is given annually to the person in Ionia County who has made an extraordinary contribution to the community over the last year. This award is co-sponsored by Ionia Sentinel Standard and the Ionia Area Chamber of Commerce.

The recipient of the award has to be nominated by a current resident of Ionia County. Lynn was not only pleased to receive the award, but felt especially honored when he found out he was nominated by his son, Joseph. Congratulations, Lynn, for this distinguished honor.

CATS Welcomes New Manager



Clinton Area Transit System (CATS) in St. Johns welcomes Steven Leiby as its new manager. Before joining CATS, Steven was with the Capital Area Michigan Works! for 23 years.

Steven is a graduate of Michigan State University and Aquinas College. The Passenger Transportation Division (PTD) welcomes Steven to the public transit community.

TCATA Honors Wilbert Brown

The Board of Directors of the Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority (TCATA) recently named the TCATA facility after Wilbert Brown. Wilbert has been the system director since the service started in September, 1974. When a Board elects to name a building after someone, it clearly speaks high praise for the person. PTD adds its congratulations to Wilbert for this honor.

During Mr. Brown's tenure, TCATA has faced many challenging situations. In 1987, a much needed millage was passed to support operations throughout the City of Benton Harbor. In 1989, work was completed on a new facility and looks as new today as when it was first occupied. There have been several complete fleet replacements, services added, and a new line-haul route developed.

People in the News

Cliff Schrader was appointed to the Board of the Blue Water Transportation Commission in February.

Claryce Gibbons-Allen was named the director of transportation by Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick.

Around the State *(continued)*

Two Michigan Transit Leaders Join Transit Study Mission

Onalee Pallas, Sanilac Transportation Corporation, and Dwight Smith, Capital Area Transportation Authority, have been selected to participate in the June 2002 transit study mission, "Safety and Security Issues at All Bus Systems in Small- to Medium-Sized Western European Cities." The mission begins Friday, June 14, 2002 and ends Saturday, June 29.

The 14-member study team will include transit representatives from around the United States. The team will meet with transit agencies in Northern Ireland, England, and France.

Many European cities and transit agencies have encountered terrorism and other security threats and have developed procedures to ensure the safety and security of bus riders, employees, and systems. The study team will focus on procedures regarding prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery to see if these procedures could be used by bus systems in the United States. Upon their return, team members will share this information with their coworkers and with the transit industry as a whole.

The International Transit Studies Program is a project of the Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) and is administered by the National Academy of Sciences, through its Transportation Research Board in cooperation with the Transit Development Corporation and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The Eno Transportation Foundation coordinates and manages the International Transit Studies Program under a contract with the National Academy of Sciences.

SMART Wins APTA Award

The American Public Transit Association (APTA) recently selected the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) as one of the recipients of its Welfare to Work Awards. One of the goals of this awards program is to bring attention to the importance of effective public transportation as a key component in welfare to work.

Congratulations to SMART on receiving APTA's Welfare to Work Award.

Bay Metro Named One of Bay County's Top 50 Employers

In March this year, Bay Metropolitan Transportation Authority was named one of Bay County's Top 50 Employers. Bay Metro with 124 employees is ranked 47th.

Like many transit systems in Michigan, Bay Metro's staff, drivers, mechanics, and other employees strive continuously to create a positive image of public transit in their community. Besides running regular transit services county-wide, Bay Metro participates in numerous local festivals and other events throughout the year, many of which would be difficult to stage without the help of the local transit system.

For instance, Bay Metro was instrumental in the success of last summer's 3-day Tall Ships Event on the riverfront in Bay City (some have described this event as the greatest event in Bay City since Teddy Roosevelt delivered his famous "Bull Moose" keynote speech at the 1912 Republican Convention at the Bay City Armory). During this event, Bay Metro shuttled tens of thousands of visitors between venues on opposite sides of the river.

Bay Metro also partners with the Historical Society and the Convention and Visitors Bureau to provide the very popular Saturday trolley tours of Bay City's historic districts. And Bay Metro's administrative/maintenance facility has served as the site of the annual Chamber of Commerce Trade Fair for ten years.

Michigan Department of Transportation

Gregory J. Rosine, Director

Urban and Public Transportation

Philip F. Kazmierski, Deputy Director

Passenger Transportation Division

Kip Grimes, Administrator

Transportation Commission

Barton W. LaBelle, Chairman

Lowell B. Jackson

John W. Garside

Betty Jean Awrey

Ted B. Wahby

C. Robert Baillod, PhD

Dates to Remember



Social Marketing Conference, MI-ACT
June 5-7, 2002: Holland, MI
Hope College, Haworth Conference
Center (see page 2)
Angie Payne 517/335-2553

Michigan Transit Vehicle and Equipment Seminar
June 12-14, 2002: Higgins Lake, MI
DNR MacMullan Center (see page 8)
Jill Adams 517/373-2051

Michigan Small Bus Rodeo
July 16, 2002 (ballgame): Grand Rapids, MI
July 17, 2002
Crowne Plaza, Grand Rapids (see page 8)
Lisa Lubahn 517/241-1893

Train the Transit Trainer
June 17-18, 2002: University of Wisconsin
at Milwaukee
Wyatt Osato 414/227-3332

APTA Risk Management Seminar
June 23-26, 2002: Toronto, Canada
Vivienne Williams 202/496-4857

State Public Transit Partnerships Conference
July 8-10, 2002: Portland, OR
David Clawson 202/624-5807

APTA Transit Board Members Seminar
and Board Support Workshop
July 21-25, 2002: San Diego, CA
Tom Urban 202/496-4853

Michigan Public Transit Association Meeting
August 14-16, 2002: Cadillac, MI
Cindy Zolkowski 517/324-0858

APTA Annual Meeting and Expo
September 22-25, 2002: Las Vegas, NV
APTA Meeting Group 202/496-4800

FTA Connecting Communities: Emergency
Preparedness and Security Forum
October 16-17, 2002: Detroit, MI (see page 2)
Jennifer Whalley 617/494-3798

PTD Welcomes New Employees

Connie Johns is one of the two new regulatory affairs analysts in the PTD Regulatory Unit of the Technical Assistance and Regulatory Section. Connie previously worked in the MDOT Office of Equal Opportunity as the office manager. Prior to that, Connie worked in the Compensation and Benefits area of the MDOT Office of Human Resources and with the Mackinaw Bridge Authority. Connie may be contacted at 517/241-0680, e-mail: johnsco@michigan.gov.



Left to right: Robbie Smith and Connie Johns.

Robbie Smith is the other new regulatory affairs analyst to join the PTD Regulatory Unit. Most recently, Robbie was a department technician in the MDOT Learning and Development Division. She previously held positions in the MDOT Contract Services Division, Michigan Jobs Commission and Department of Labor. Robbie may be contacted at 517/241-0679; e-mail: smithr@michigan.gov.

Both Connie and Robbie will be responsible for limousine credentialing activities, insurance compliance, fee collection, registration decals, complaints and law enforcement coordination initiatives.

Welcome, Connie and Robbie to the PTD family.



"Providing the highest quality transportation services for economic benefit and improved quality of life."

This issue we feature another PTD work unit - the Regulatory Unit, part of the Technical Assistance and Regulatory Section (TARS) managed by Jerry Smalley.

Regulatory Unit Where SAFETY Is What We Do Every Day

The Regulatory Unit is responsible for the statutory regulation of private sector motor bus and limousine passenger carriers. The regulation covers many areas and services, including credentialing (issuing and renewal of operating authority/business licenses), insurance compliance, revenue collection, insurance compliance, investigation of complaints of illegal operations and noncompliance, enforcement initiatives, law enforcement coordination, on-site annual motor bus inspections at terminals (garages), and certifying the safety of limousines. Other safety activities are performed under the federal Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) include driver/vehicle random, unannounced inspections at tourist and sports venues and management safety audit Compliance Reviews of carriers safety practices to determine compliance with state and federal laws. The unit also is responsible for the procurement and disposal of state-owned intercity bus equipment. The unit supervisor is Dave Sucha who also is the vice chairman of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance Passenger Carrier Committee. Dave may be contacted at 517/335-2565 or by e-mail: suchad@michigan.gov.

Dave Bunting is a commercial vehicle safety specialist and is responsible for motor bus safety and maintenance issues statewide. He is also the chief technical resource person for federal/state driver/vehicle safety regulations, unit information technology, conducts federal management safety audit Compliance Reviews under the federal MCSAP and coordinates intercity bus procurement/disposal. Dave may be contacted at 517/335-2574 or by e-mail: buntingd@michigan.gov.

Rob Latimer is a commercial vehicle safety specialist and is responsible for both state annual and federal random MCSAP motor bus driver/vehicle safety inspections in northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. He is also responsible for management safety audit compliance reviews conducted under the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program. Rob may be reached at 517/335-2562 or by e-mail: latimerr@michigan.gov.

Steve Bernard is a commercial vehicle safety specialist and is responsible for both state annual and federal random MCSAP motor bus driver/vehicle safety inspections in central and southwestern Michigan. He is also responsible for the maintenance and monitoring of state-owned intercity bus capital. Steve maybe contacted at 517/335-2474 or by e-mail: bernards@michigan.gov.

Steve Compton is a commercial vehicle safety specialist and is responsible for both state annual and federal random MCSAP motor bus driver/vehicle safety inspections in southeastern Michigan. He is also responsible for the maintenance and monitoring of state-



The Regulatory Unit. Back row (left to right): Steve Compton, Dave Bunting, Dave Sucha, Steve Bernard, and Rob Latimer. Front row: Marilyn Clark, Joyce Holben, and Barbara Wickerham.

owned intercity bus capital. Steve may be contacted at 517/373-8784 or by e-mail: comptons@michigan.gov.

Barbara Wickerham is a department analyst and is responsible for all credentialing/licensing activities pertaining to the day-to-day statewide administration of Act 432 of 1982, the Motor Bus Transportation Act. Barbara assists with legislative activities and performs rulemaking and bill analysis. Contact Barbara at 517/335-2583 or by e-mail: wickerhamb@michigan.gov.

Marilyn Clark and **Joyce Holben** are temporary regulatory affairs assistants. They are responsible for all credentialing/licensing activities for the administration of Act 271 of 1990, the Limousine Transportation Act. Other duties include: monitoring carrier insurance levels, enforcement, complaint investigation, and the safety certification of all limousines. Contact Marilyn at 517/241-0680 (e-mail: clarkm4@michigan.gov). Contact Joyce at 517/241-0679 (e-mail: holbenjo@michigan.gov). PTD thanks Marilyn and Joyce for their hard work and dedication. The limousine community will miss you!

The Regulatory Unit welcomes two new employees, Connie Johns and Robbie Smith. See story on page 6, "PTD Welcomes New Employees."

Saddle Up Pardner! The ROADEO is coming to town!

It's time to get ready for the biggest darn Rodeo on four wheels! Bully is loaded in the chute and will be raring to go July 17, 2002, at the Crowne Plaza in Grand Rapids.

The Michigan Public Transit Association (MPTA) will donate prize money for the top three drivers and the top "Rookie." The prizes are \$200 for first place, \$150 for second place, \$100 for third place, and a \$50 prize for the best score by a rookie driver. The top three drivers will get a free trip to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to participate in the 2003 National Rodeo. This trip won't mess up yer RTAP allocation, 'cause this is paid for by MDOT. There's also prize money for the agencies with the top team winner and the first place individual winner.

Think that's good - it gets better! Hoekstra Transportation Inc. and Eldorado National are treating all participating drivers to a West Michigan White Caps baseball game and dinner at the ballpark. So be ready to watch the White Caps take on the Burlington Bees on July 16, 2002.

So round up your best and bravest drivers who think they are a match for Bully. We need all yer drivers to make the 2002 Michigan Small Bus Rodeo a huge success! The registration information was mailed in early May and the registration deadline is June 14, 2002. Contact Lisa Lubahn if you have any questions (517/241-1893; e-mail: lubahnl@michigan.gov). See ya there!



The Transit Vehicle and Equipment Seminar Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Come join us for the 25th anniversary celebration of the Transit Vehicle and Equipment Seminar this June 12-14, 2002, at the DNR MacMullan Center at Higgins Lake, Michigan. Guest speaker at the kick-



off on Wednesday, June 12 is Halsey King, a national leader in the bus maintenance field. Halsey will also conduct a workshop on Thursday and Friday on preventive maintenance and new vehicle inspections.

Make plans to join us for the vendor show on Wednesday beginning at 1 p.m. to see the latest in bus equipment. Another exciting event will be the vendor reception at the Holiday Inn in Grayling beginning at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 12. Be there or be square!

If you require any additional information, please contact Jill Adams at 517/373-2051, e-mail: adamsji@michigan.gov.

The *Passenger TransActions* is a quarterly news bulletin produced by the Michigan Department of Transportation, Passenger Transportation Division for the public transit providers in Michigan. Suggestions or comments may be sent to Jill Adams, MDOT/Passenger Transportation Division, P.O. Box 30050, Lansing, Michigan 48909, or call 517/373-2051 (e-mail adamsji@michigan.gov). The *Passenger TransActions* is also available online at www.mdot.state.mi.us/UPTRAN/ptd/pub/current.pdf (back issues are available online by changing "current.pdf" in the address to the name of the issue you want to review, e.g. "Fall2000.pdf"). Alternative formats such as large print, braille, or audio-tape are available upon request by calling Rose Ann Ward 517/335-2598 (E-mail wardr@michigan.gov). Total quarterly cost to print 500 copies: \$72.75 (\$0.15 per copy).